



# City of Alexandria

## Transportation Commission

### Regular Meeting

October 2, 2013  
7:00 p.m.  
City Council Work Room

### MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Councilman Lovain, Kerry Donley, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Louisa Ward and Maria Wasowski

**Staff Present:** Rich Baier – T&ES, Emily Baker – T&ES, Carrie Beach - P&Z, Karen Callahan – T&ES, Joel Marcuson – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Jim Maslanka – T&ES, Raymond Mui - DASH, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Andre Stafford – DASH,

The Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

#### 1. September 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were any comments or edits regarding the September 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Donley made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Lovain seconded the motion. There being no objections, the motion to approve the minutes was voted on and unanimously approved.

#### 2. Funding Update

T&ES staff Joel Marcuson provided a brief update on funding and/or actions of major regional transportation bodies as they relate to the City.

**City Council:** The Council was updated on the DASH Efficiency Study on September 10, 2013 and approved priorities for RSTP/CMAQ funds on September 24, 2013.

**DRPT:** The Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) tentatively adopted a method for allocating new operating funds which includes a 3 phased approach that rewards performance improvement in different phases and transition periods. The City provided comments on its concerns that the transit needs of people working or visiting jurisdictions were not addressed. TSDAC continues to deliberate regarding the criteria that will be used to allocate capital assistance.

**Commonwealth Transportation Board:** Presentations were given at their September 17, 2013 meeting on VRE and Transit performance metrics.

**TPB:** Reviewed comments received concerning the draft Regional Transportation Priorities Plan on September 18, 2013.

**WMATA:** The WMATA Planning, Program Development, and Real Estate Committee approved granting Alexandria a permanent easement to construct access improvements at King St.-Old Town Metrorail Station. Public hearings were held on route modifications suggested by WMATA staff. Commissioner Posey requested that staff bring back to the Commission the latest plans for the King Street Metrorail Station.

**NVTC:** The Board received comments regarding TSDAC committee and authorized sending a letter expressing concerns regarding method of allocating new operating revenues. The Board also discussed preliminary findings by auditor of public accounts regarding VRE.

**NVTA:** The Board was briefed on September 26, 2013 of the DRPT SuperNova Plan, and VDOT HBB599 Prioritization Study. Chair Mitchell Jennifer requested that the Commission weigh in on the metrics being used for projects, and the potential to use the metrics for the City's NVTA 70% projects.

### **3. New Department of Project Implementation**

Emily Baker, Director of the Department of Project Implementation (DPI) gave an overview of the City's new Department of DPI. It was created to implement City infrastructure capital projects and to coordinate the planning and implementation of certain complex, multi-departmental projects such as those in the Waterfront Plan. The goal of the department is to shorten the delivery timetable of these projects and improve the overall process for project implementation. T&ES will continue to focus on transportation planning and preliminary engineering. Once projects have been identified, funded and a design alternative has been selected, the projects will be handed to DPI for final engineering and construction.

### **4. What's Next, Alexandria? Civic Engagement**

T&ES staff Rich Baier and P&Z staff Carrie Beech gave an overview on the City's civic engagement process, known as "What's Next, Alexandria?". What's Next, Alexandria is a City initiative to develop guidelines for improving and expanding civic engagement in Alexandria. Opportunities for engagement included four community dialogues where participants worked together in small groups, four opportunities for online engagement; and three opportunities for real time online video engagement during the dialogues. These opportunities occurred from September 2012 through June 2013. Community collaboration resulted in three key elements: principles for civic engagement, a standard framework for the engagement process, and guidance on communications and outreach strategies. Together, these important pieces make up Alexandria's Civic Engagement Handbook, which will serve as a guide for future public decision-making processes in the city. City Council will hold a public hearing on the draft final of the Handbook on November 16, 2013 and vote on the approval on November 26, 2013.

### **5. Route 7 Transitway Study Update**

T&ES staff Jim Maslanka gave an update on a transit alternatives analysis study along Route 7 (King Street to Tysons Corner) being undertaken by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC). In 2010, the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) awarded Falls Church \$350,000 of unallocated Section 5339 (Alternatives Analysis) funds for the study. The small amount of funding was only enough to cover Phase 1. Funding for Phase 2 is included in the set of regional projects adopted by NVTA in July, 2013 as a result of HB 2313. It was decided that

the NVTC would administer this project since this grant funded project crossed jurisdictional boundaries, including Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, and the City of Falls Church. Thus far, the consultants have eliminated such options as monorail, commuter rail, heavy rail, and streetcars from further analysis. However, preliminary demand calculations show a potential demand for light rail services. The Transportation Commission suggested that the study examine routes that don't go all the way to Tysons Corner, and better coordination with the Columbia Pike streetcar project.

#### **6. FY 2015-2024 CIP Guidance**

T&ES Staff Sandra Marks gave an update on FY 2015- FY 2024 City Capital Improvement Program (CIP). As guidance, staff proposed the Commission maintain funding for highest priorities set by Transportation Commission; allocate NVT 70% funds for high priority major capital investments with regional impacts, with an emphasis on leveraging non-city funds and/or accelerating project delivery; utilize funding sources with least restrictions on project eligibility (i.e. CMAQ, RSTP, and NVT 30% funds) for non-motorized projects, project development, ADA improvements, maintenance and operations; commit adequate operating funds to provide the project management, procurement and management staff resources necessary to implement new capital projects and programs efficiently; and ensure that City transportation funding is maintained or increased above the required maintenance-of-effort requirements of HB2313 to provide new transportation capacity and enhanced transportation services and programs while also maintaining existing assets in a state of good repair. Commissioner Donley made a motion to approve the guidance, with additional language regarding capitalization of staff resources, and the preservation of the 2.2 cent transportation reservation in order to comply with maintenance-of-effort requirements, maintain flexibility, and to offset previous loss of state urban funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Posey. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved. A letter will be sent to Council from the Commission summarizing the guidance.

#### **7. Staff Updates**

The Commission received written staff updates on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, Route 1 Transitway and Capital Bikeshare.

A Council work session is planned for Nov. 26, 2013 to update Council on regional projects. Chair Jennifer Mitchell asked that staff keep the Commission updated on future council meeting dates regarding regional project updates.

#### **8. Commission Updates**

The Commission Retreat is scheduled for November 15, 2013. The Commission agreed to hold the retreat between 8:30am until noon. The Commission advised staff that the agenda and meeting structure be well organized to keep the meeting on schedule and efficient.

At 8:45 pm, there being no further business, Chair Mitchell made a motion to adjourn which was seconded, voted on and unanimously approved.